

**ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT CAMP ON  
THE ENVIRONMENT. A CASE STUDY OF KASHUMBA SUB COUNTY, ISINGIRO  
DISTRICT, SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA.**

**BY**

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**2022**

**DECLARATION**

**I NINSHABA AGATHA** do confirm with genuineness that this dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences is entirely the work of my hands and has not been submitted to any University or any other institution of higher learning by any other person for assessment.

**NAME:** .....

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**APPROVAL.**

This is to certify that this dissertation titled “: Assessing the impacts of nakivale refugee settlement camp on the environment. A case study of kashumba sub county, Isingiro district, south western Uganda” by Ninshaba Agatha has been done under my supervision and it is ready to be submitted to the Faculty of Natural resources and Environmental sciences Busitema University.

Signature



Mrs Ariango Esther Gumisiriza

**SUPERVISOR**

.....

DATE

## **DEDICATION.**

It is with genuine gratitude and warm regard that I dedicate this piece of work to my beloved siblings and cousins. May my academic journey be an insight to you as you aim to achieve your dreams?

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

I thank the almighty God for granting me the gift of life throughout my entire academic journey, may his name be glorified.

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## **ACRONYMS.**

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
FES	Functional Electrical Stimulation
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
UN	United Nation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
US	united States
STDs	Sexually transmitted diseases.
WW11	World War

## **ABSTRACT.**

The continent that has attracted large number of refugees in the world is Africa. In 2015, around 86 percent of the world's refugees under UNHCR mandate meaning 19.9 million people were hosted by developing countries with 4.4 million people, sub-Saharan Africa is the region with largest number of refugees. Uganda is one of eight African countries that agreed to apply the CRRF concepts according to (Giles, 2017). With 1.4 million refugees, Uganda has become one of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations. It is also hailed as one of the most welcoming countries for refugees, having implemented an open-door policy and self-reliance approaches since 1999. As of 2020, Nakivale hosts nearly 132,000 refugees from various African countries, more than twice as many as it had in 2014 (58,000) , the large influx of refugees put pressure on environment and natural resources.

This study was conducted in Nakivale settlement camp in the three zones of Base camp, Juru, and Rubondo so as to gather information on the impacts of refugees on the environment. This was aimed to gather information to identify the human activities taking place in the camp, assess the impacts of human activities on the environment in Nakivale settlement camp, and identify the mitigation measures to the impacts resulting from human activities in Nakivale settlement camp.

Data was collected using three methods, that is, questionnaire, interviewing, and observation. Simple random sampling method was used to come up with a sample size of 75 respondents. Data was collected, entered and analyzed using SPSS 20 and results were presented by use of frequency tables, bar graphs and pie-charts.

The study revealed that majority of the refugees do more crop growing as a source of livelihood, therefore a lot of pressure is put on environment and natural resources through clearing tress and vegetation for farming hence soil is exposed to heavy rain is eroding. Settlement sites are being littered with degradable and non-biodegradable materials because of trading in different centres. The study further revealed that not all hope is lost as there are potential measures for the refugees to solve such issues through planting trees, sensitization of the farmers then collection of solid wastes and burning of them.

The study recommended that a lot more effort be put in population control as a critical intervention for the increasing number of refugees in the camp hence conserving the environment, also development and enforcement of by- laws in the management of environment in settlement camps should be strengthened.

## **1.0 CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.**

According to the UNEP, (2000) based in Nairobi, Kenya simply defined environment as “the sum of all external factors to which an organism is exposed.”Therefore this study seeks to examine the physical part of the environment such as soils, water; forests among others how they have been impacted by the refugees. Refugees have a negative impact on the environment UNHCR, (2017). The loss of any forest cover may be a major issue because of habitat degradation, the loss of ecosystem functioning often cause lower quality of life. The impact of refugee resettlement on host communities significant, including competition over access to livelihoods exerts pressure on natural resources as trees are cleared for housing and fuel UNHCR, (2017). Over population, land pressures, poverty, famine, epidemics or natural disasters also produce large numbers of up rooted people Lee, (2001).Therefore the issue of environment does not just affect host communities alone, the refugees are also impacted by the environment they live in, when it has been depleted refugees too like their host will suffer the repercussion of polluted water sources, cut trees and prolonged drought among others.

Migration has been part of human existence in the society. People leaving their homes to settle into other places are not a new phenomenon. Migration has existed for almost entire human history. McNeill, (1984) argues that it is safe to assume that when ancestors first become fully human they were already migratory moving about in pursuit of the Big game. People moved with ease by managing climatic and geographic barriers with the invention of clothes and housing allowed go through harsh weather conditions.

One category of migrants since the 20th century is refugees; people have been forced to move because of persecution, war, ethnic and religious conflicts at their homes. Issues that threaten lives like famine have also forced people to leave their countries of origin and seek refuge elsewhere. Reports show that 80 percent of the people that fled to Europe by sea were forced to by war, persecution, famine among others, (summers, and 2017). Most rich countries have been reluctant on taking in more refugees because of fears for national security, jobs and political support and also because they impact on host countries and communities.

According to the United Nations Status of Refugees UNHCR, (1979) a refugee is a person “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his

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